

City of Newark

325th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Presents

FOUNDERS DAY CEREMONY

Friday, May 17, 1991

12 Noon - 2:00 p.m.



Founders Park

(Landings Place Park)

Saybrook Place & McCarter Highway

Newark, New Jersey

Rain Site: Essex County College

NEWARK 325 YEARS  1666-1991 

Performers:
Hon. Sharpe James
Hon. Ralph T. Grant, Jr.

Marocco Bey

Catherine Brooks

Robert Errera

Erika Gardener

Norman Marshall

Geneva Ortiz

Wiley Payne

Jean Pierre

Anita Quayle

Steve Ross

Michell Smith

Debbie Spearman

Sharon Spearman

Frantz Wulff-Tagoe

Newark Citywide Senior Citizens Choral Group
Robert Banks, Director

Technical Crew

Bruce Lloyd, Director

Don Eamon, Stage Manager

Terr Gabriel, Costume Designer

Tracey Carluccla, Asst. Costume Designer

Float Designers

Dan Drew

Susan Augustowski-Lopez

New Jersey Institute of Technology

Special Thanks to:

Dr. A. Zachary Yamba, President

Essex County College

City of Newark

Engineering Department

General Services Department

Land Use Control

Newark Police Department

Office Services Division

Charles Cummings, Historian

Improve Newark Committee

Greater Newark Conservancy

Today, Friday, May 17, we celebrate the founding of Newark, but tomorrow is the actual date when, 325 years ago, the first Puritan settler stepped ashore seeking religious freedom near what is today Saybrook Place and McCarter Highway.

Now the landing place is a small city park tucked away amidst the massive developments of Riverfront and the Gateways, and close by the site of the planned \$200 million New Jersey Performing Arts Center. When Elizabeth Swaine was helped ashore by her future fiance Josiah Ward, Newark was then a remote spot in the wilderness, where the Puritans were to establish their own theocracy away from intruding political or religious events in Connecticut.

Robert Treat was the military leader of this band of Puritans, and the Rev. Abraham Pierson was its spiritual guide. The Connecticut towns which sent settlers, included: Milford, Branford, Guilford, and New Haven.

And while we celebrate May 18, 1666 as the founding date, Captain Treat visited the area in the previous year to make final arrangements for the settlement with Governor Carteret in old Elizabethtown, now known as Elizabeth. It was there that the governor supposedly made all the arrangements for the transfer of approximately 40,000 acres to Treat. In theory this was the case, but in fact the Indians' claims had not been addressed by Carteret, and when the first Newarkers arrived, they discovered much to their surprise that they were not welcomed by the Lenni Lenape. Reboarding their little ships, they prepared to return to Connecticut but stopped at Elizabethtown to question the governor's faulty contract. From there, Captain Treat sailed up the Hackensack River to negotiate a temporary settlement with old Chief Oraton through his negotiator, Perro.

While a temporary agreement was made to permit settlement in Newark, it was not until the following year that the actual payment was made for the land, and a second group of settlers arrived. Approximately \$750 worth of goods were exchanged for Newark. Thus, the first 30 families from Milford settled the core of what is downtown Newark, and the following year as the

Branford settlers arrived, the terms of the purchase were fulfilled with the following items:

"Fifty double hands of powder, 100 bars of lead, 20 axes, 20 coats, 10 guns, 20 pistols, 10 kettles, 10 swords, four blankets, four barrels of beer, 10 pairs of breeches, 50 knives, 20 hoes, 850 fathoms of wampum, two ankers of liquor and three troopers' coats."

Later more land was bought west of the original area, which extended Newark's boundary to the foot of the Watchung or Orange Mountains and included much of modern-day Essex County. In return for the second purchase the Indians received: "Two guns, three coats and 13 kans of Rum".

Thus, with these two purchases the settlers could proudly claim that every inch of Newark had been purchased, not taken by force, thus setting an enviable example for other settlements throughout New Jersey.

With Newark's boundaries defined, attention was turned to building the village. In 1667, the settlers agreed to be ruled by magistrates. They built their first "Meeting House" on Broad Street near Branford Place in 1668, and in May of the same year, the town commissioners settled the boundary line between Newark and Elizabeth at Dividend Hill now in Weequahic Park. The same year the first grist mill was built at First River, near the intersection of Clay and old High Streets. By 1669, a court was established and in 1670, Thomas Johnson established Newark's first hotel on the northeast corner of Broad and Walnut Streets; the site of today's Grace Church. So after only four years of its settlement, a new community was born, and the first Newark was on its way, from its tiny beginning as the nation's last and most remote Puritan village, to becoming a mighty American city.

— Charles F. Cummings, City Historian

NEWARK READING LIST

- Bishop, Gordon** *Greater Newark. A microcosm of America. A contemporary portrait.* Chatsworth, Calif.: Windsor Publications, Inc., 1989. 351 pp.
An impressive collection of up-to-date information about greater Newark and its businesses and resources.
- Castor, Nancy** *A Bibliography of Newark, New Jersey. 1666-1986.* Newark, N.J.: The Newark Public Library, 1986. 29 pp.
A 250-entry bibliography of books about Newark arranged in 16 categories.
- Cunningham, John T.** *Newark* Newark, N.J.: The New Jersey Historical Society, 1988. 384 pp.
The definitive history of Newark from its founding in 1666 through 1988. Beautifully written, richly illustrated, and well indexed, this is Newark's history primer.
- Karschner, Terry** *Industrial Newark.* Prepared for the 14th SIA Conference held in Newark, May 1985. 197 pp.
A modern-day review of Newark's great 19th and 20th century industries and buildings. Excellent text and interesting graphics make the publication important for industrially-oriented investigators.
- Leary, Peter J.** *Newark, N.J. Illustrated. A souvenir of the City and its numerous industries.* Newark, N.J.: William A. Baker, 1893.
A late nineteenth century business history of Newark which was written in conjunction with the Newark Board of Trade.
- N.J. Historical Society** *Records of the Township of Newark. 1666-1836.* Newark, N.J.: The New Jersey Historical Society, 1864, 1966 eds. 308 pp.
One hundred and seventy years of township notes from the founding of Puritan Newark to incorporation of the modern city.
- Winters, Stanley B.** *From Riot to recovery. Newark after ten years.* Washington D.C.: University Press of America, 1979. 529 pp.
A ten-year assessment of Newark after the period of national riots in the 1960s. Many community leaders comment on Newark in the late 1970s.

by Charles F. Cummings
Assistant Director
Research Services Department
Newark Public Library



Programme

12 Noon

Fanfare

Arrival of Officials 325th Anniversary Float

Invocation Rev. Dr. Dwight A. White, Pastor
Old First Presbyterian Church

Welcome Address Hon. Sharpe James
35th Mayor
City of Newark

Remarks Hon. Ralph T. Grant, Jr.
President, Municipal Council

Remarks Charles Cummings
Newark Historian

Recognition of Officials Mayor Sharpe James

12:45 - 1:30 P.M.

Introduction of Performance Bruce Lloyd, Director
Mary B. Burch Theatre
Essex County College

Performance Commemorative Day Play
Essex County Community Players
Newark Citywide Senior Citizens Choral Group

Food Vendor
Palate Pleasure

325th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Mayor Sharpe James, Honorary Chair
Pamela E. Goldstein, Chair

Steven Aduhato
 Lucille Annuziata
 Celeste Bateman Mangan
 Milton Curits Battle
 Miles Berger
 Catherine Kitty Brooks
 Gloria Bryant
 Jerry Callahan
 Florence Chambers
 Ceu Cirne
 Anthony Clark
 Charles Cummings
 Florence Demmings
 Leon Denmark
 Armando Fontoura
 Marleny Franco
 Frank Hutchins
 Gloria Jackson
 Randy L. Jones
 Rosa S. Langston

Edwin McLucas
 Richard A. Monteilh
 Carmen A. Mosca
 Eileen M. O'Connell
 Wilson O'Donnell
 Mary Sue Sweeney Price
 Richard Schoon
 Barbara Singer
 Nina Stack
 Frank Sudol
 Kitty Taylor
 Lisa Tolson
 Elizabeth Del Tufo
 Franotie Washington
 Dr. Dwight A. White
 Melvin Williams
 A. Zachary Yamba
 Bakbakkar Yehudah
 Alvin Zach



City of Newark
 Sharpe James, Mayor

Municipal Council
 Ralph T. Grant, Jr., At-Large
 Council President, 1990-91

Donald Tucker, At-Large
 Council President, 1991-92

Donald Bradley, South Ward
 George Branch, Central Ward
 Anthony Carrino, North Ward
 Gary S. Harris, At-Large
 Henry Martinez, East Ward
 Ronald L. Rice, West Ward
 Donald Tucker, At-Large
 Marie L. Villani, At-Large